

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 /092 W

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R 120524Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8122

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SO, FT

SUBJECT: LIBERATION GROUP LEADER RAISES SPECTRE OF WAR IN HORN

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1477 (NOTAL)

1. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA REPORTED FEB. 10 NEWS CONFERENCE OF AHMED BOURHAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ETHIOPIAN-BACKED MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF DJIBOUTI-MLD (HEADQUARTERED IN DIRE DAWA, ETHIOPIA). BURHAN STATED THAT "THE SPECTRE OF WAR IS THREATENING OUR COUNTRY (TFAI) AND OUR PEOPLE." THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY, HE SAID, WAS "TO LIVE IN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH OUR NEIGHBORS AND WITH FRANCE."

2. BURHAN STATED THAT "ALL SHADES OF POLITICAL OPINION ...AGREED WITH THE PRINCIPLES SET FOR INDEPENDENCE. FRANCE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON HER PART, HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE WILL OF THE

PEOPLE OF OUR TERRITORY." BUT, HE ADDED, "SOMALIA, WHICH PRETENDS TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF OUR INDEPENDENCE, HAS UPSET THE TABLE AND HAS CREATED CONFUSION AND TERROR WITH A VIEW TO REALIZING HER DREAM," THE CREATION OF GREATER SOMALIA. BURHAN CRITICIZED SOMALIA FOR WANTING TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON THE PEOPLES OF THE HORN OF AFRICA. HE THEN ACCUSED SOMALIA OF PAYING AGENTS IN ORDER TO CHANGE THE SITUATION IN THE HORN.

3. BURHAN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE UNSC WOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER OF THE TFAI AND THAT SOMALIA WOULD RENOUNCE ITS CLAIM TO THE TERRITORY. "WE DEMAND," HE SAID, "THAT MOGADISCIO STOP THESE AGITATIONS. INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION MUST HELP US IN THIS RESPECT TO UPHOLD THE INTEREST OF OUR PEOPLE AS WELL AS THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN THE REGION."

4. BOURHAN THEN ACCUSED SOMALIA OF TRYING TO SABOTAGE DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE EFFORTS. THE RECENT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN DJIBOUTI, HE SAID, WERE PLANNED, FINANCED AND EXECUTED BY THE GSDR IN ORDER TO CONFUSE THE REAL ISSUES AND TO ATTEMPT TO MAKE GOOD ITS WELL-KNOWN EXPANSIONIST POLICIES.

COMMENT: AS NOTED IN PARA 2 REFTL, THE EPMG THROUGH ITS GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA IS USING THE MLD TO SUPPLEMENT THE ETHIOPIAN LINE ON THE TFAI AND TO ATTACK SOMALIA. THIS IS ANOTHER IN THE CONTINUING ALMOST DAILY PUBLICITY HERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF SOMALI ACTIONS RE THE TFAI. END COMMENT.
HUMMEL

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